



# Science for Students with Disabilities:

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Good for Students, Good for Science!

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# Students with Disabilities

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- 13.2% of all students
- 6,195,113, 30% increase in past decade
- 75.9% served 40% or more in general education classrooms



# Science is important for students with disabilities

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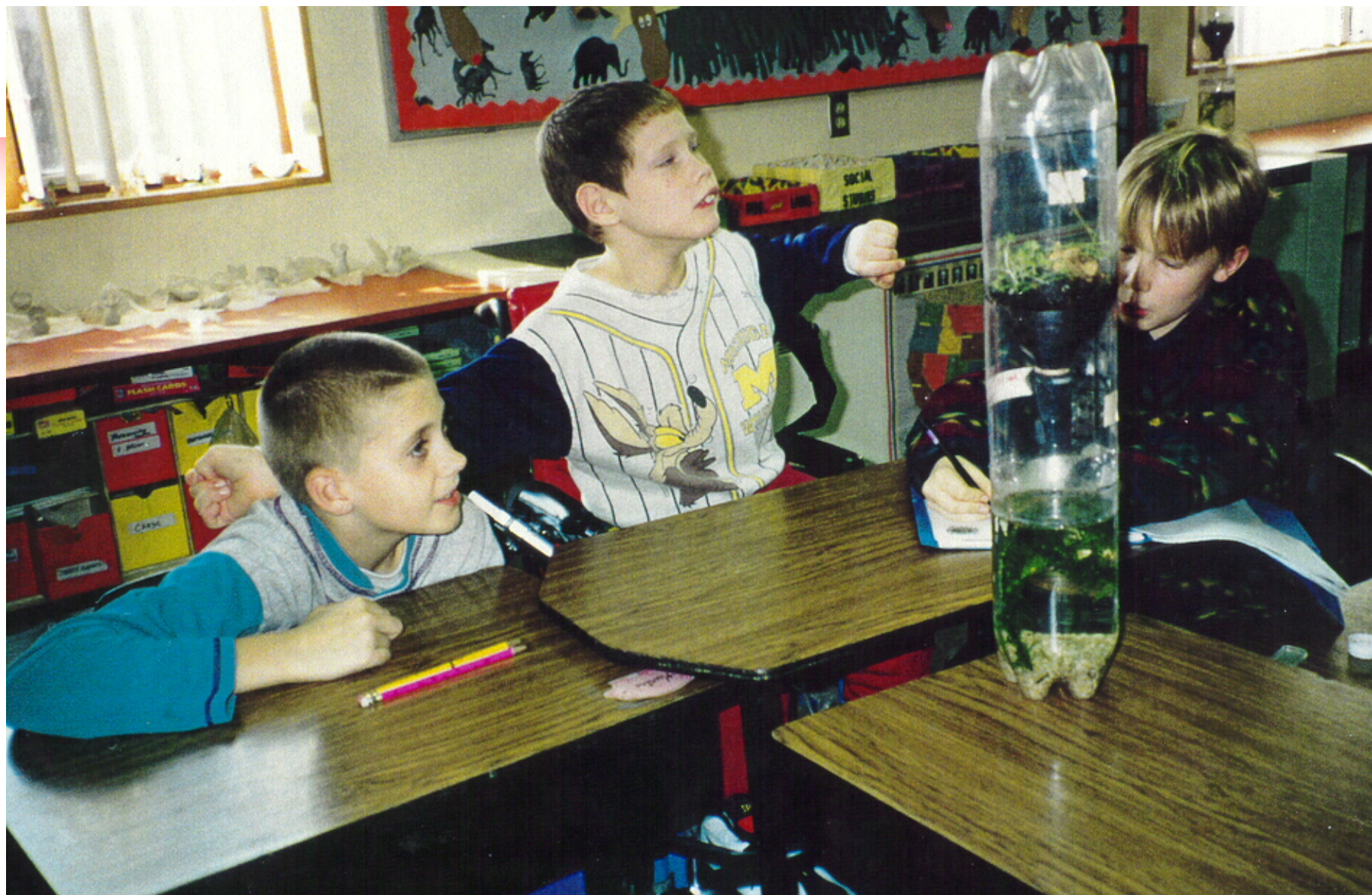
- Promotes alternative means for extending our physical and sensory abilities
- Promotes, encourages, and develops thinking skills
- Serves to finding order in the observed universe
- promotes learning for those who learn best by doing



# Science

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- Accommodations can benefit all students
- Can be particularly relevant
- Hands-on science instruction can be very effective and can minimize achievement differences









# Assistive Technologies

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- Communication
  - Communication boards
  - Speech recognition, Close captioning
  - Text readers, Web readers
  - Electronic switches
- Science
  - Accessible lab furniture
  - Microscope cameras, tactile graphics
  - Talking calculators, liquid level indicators
  - Braille thermometers, light sensors
  - 3-D interactive models



# Good for Science

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- 13.2% of school children K-12 identified with disabilities
- Only 6% will become scientists
- Science education can increase career opportunities can help increase the number of scientists and engineers.





# Science Teachers with Disabilities

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- Presently greatly underrepresented
- Can provide additional pool of potential science teachers
- Can provide role models for students with and without disabilities



# Abraham Nemeth (1996)

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...a blind person who is adequately trained in his field and who has mastered the skills of blindness can function as competently and as productively as anyone else as a mathematics teacher, and that his blindness need not be an obstacle in choosing that career.